

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 6, 1972

DOS REVIEWED 12-Nov-2010: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

REFER TO DOS

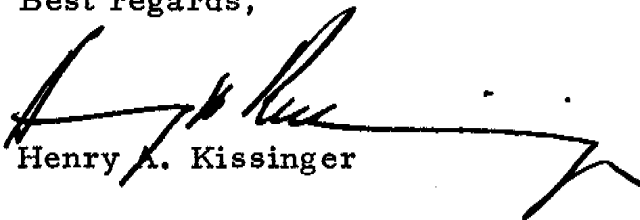
BY LIAISON

FBI REVIEWED 09-Nov-2010: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Your detailed report on circumstances surrounding the death of a member of the PRC UN Mission was greatly appreciated. If there are any significant developments in the investigation, I would be grateful if you would provide me with a further report.

Best regards,



Henry A. Kissinger

The Honorable
J. Edgar Hoover
Office of the Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20535



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

March 30, 1972

Howe
BY LIAISON

Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Kissinger:

On March 14, 1972, Major General Alexander Meigs Haig, Jr., expressed to me the interest of the President regarding the death on February 7, 1972, of WANG Hsi-tsang, a staff member of the People's Republic of China Mission to the United Nations, New York City.

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth information developed at New York City and indicating that WANG may have died from nicotine poisoning. There is no indication at this time that WANG was the victim of foul play.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure

DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

March 30, 1972

WANG Hsi-tsang

WANG Hsi-tsang, a member of the staff of the People's Republic of China Mission to the United Nations (PRCMUN), New York City, was found dead in his room at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York City, on February 7, 1972. Shortly thereafter, representatives of the PRCMUN discussed WANG's death with local law enforcement officials and, during this discussion, furnished these officials with an article from the February 2, 1972, issue of "Newsday," a daily newspaper published in Garden City, New York. The article was written by one Flora Lewis, and it reported the possible existence of a plot to assassinate members of the Chinese United Nations delegation in an effort to embarrass President Nixon prior to his travel to mainland China. Although the PRCMUN official who furnished the article did not claim that WANG's death and the information in the article were related, he apparently implied that the two were connected. As a result of this meeting, an investigation was undertaken by the New York City Police Department.

Flora Lewis, mentioned above, is also known as Flora Gruson, and both Gruson and her husband are described by foreign intelligence agencies as Marxists. Flora Lewis has an extensive background in the field of journalism and was formerly employed as a London correspondent by "The Washington Post."

On March 26, 1972, a review of the final report made by the medical examiner who examined WANG subsequent to his death disclosed a definite conclusion that WANG died from acute nicotine poisoning. On the same date, representatives of the New York City Police Department, a representative of the United States Mission to the United Nations, and a representative of this Bureau met

WANG Hsi-tsang

with PRCMUN representatives at which time an "environmental check" of WANG's room at the Hotel Roosevelt was permitted. It is noted that many changes had been made in the room since WANG's death; however, a thermos container from which WANG apparently drank tea remained in the room. The thermos container, upon examination, disclosed definite evidence of nicotine. It was also determined that WANG was fully dressed at the time of his death; that there was no evidence of foul play or forced entry to his room; and that the only door to his room was locked with a chain from the inside of the room. According to PRCMUN officials, WANG had not been ill, and they are not aware of any use of nicotine by Chinese. PRCMUN officials refused to identify and make available for interview co-workers of WANG, and they refused to permit fingerprints to be taken which could be compared with those on the thermos container in WANG's room.

A representative of the New York City Police Department advised that he has heard of a popular belief in the Chinese community that the combination of garlic and nicotine is considered to be a cure-all for many ailments, including worms. He noted that evidence of intestinal worms was found in WANG's body during examination.

The New York City Police Department is continuing its investigation in this matter, and any significant developments will be brought to your attention.

United States Ambassador to the United Nations George Bush is aware of all developments in this matter to date, and he has expressed the desire to personally advise officials of the United States Department of State of pertinent information developed.